

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A dispersion or solution of a polymer in water, organic solvents or mixtures thereof, wherein the polymer comprises at least 0.001 mol of 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups, $[[()]]$ calculated at 109 g/mol, $[[()]]$ per 100 g of polymer.

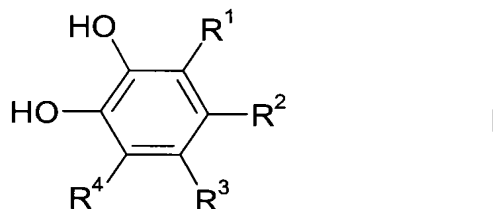
Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1, which is an aqueous dispersion or solution.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a polymer obtainable by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is synthesized from at least 40% by weight of principal monomers selected from C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl (meth)acrylates, vinyl esters of carboxylic acids comprising up to 20 carbon atoms, vinylaromatics having up to 20 carbon atoms, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, vinyl halides, vinyl ethers of alcohols comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms, aliphatic hydrocarbons having 2 to 8 carbon atoms and one or two double bonds or mixtures of these monomers.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 4, wherein the 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are present in the polymer by copolymerization with monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups.

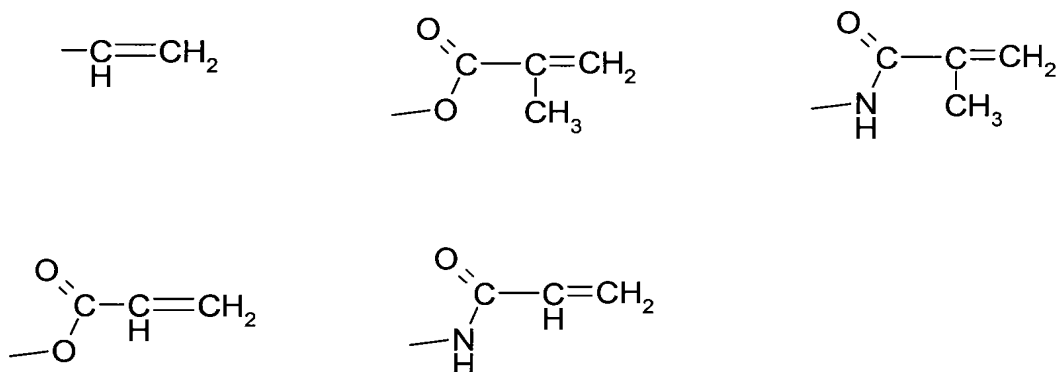
Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 5, wherein the monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are those of the formula



in which at least one of the radicals R^1 to R^4 is an organic radical comprising at least one free-radically polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated group, may consist in total of up to 50 carbon atoms and if appropriate also comprises heteroatoms such as O, N or S, and the remaining radicals are organic radicals without a copolymerizable group or are hydrogen.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 5, wherein the monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are those in which at least one of the radicals R^1 to R^4 is a group $-\text{Y}-\text{X}$, where

X is selected from



and

Y is a single bond or is a divalent spacer group having up to 30 carbon atoms and if appropriate heteroatoms such as O, N or S.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 4, wherein the glass transition temperature of the polymer is less than +10°C, preferably less than 0°C.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The dispersion or solution according to claim 7, wherein the pH of the dispersion or solution is less than 7.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A method of using ~~the~~ a dispersion or solution according to ~~claim 1~~ as adhesive, sealant, ~~coating material~~ or impregnating composition, wherein the dispersion or solution is a dispersion or solution of a polymer in water, organic solvent or mixtures thereof, wherein the polymer comprises at least 0.001 mol of 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups, calculated at 109 g/mol, per 100 g of polymer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the dispersion or solution is stored oxygen-free prior to use and comes into contact with oxygen only upon use.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of using according to claim 11, wherein the dispersion or solution has a pH of less than 4 prior to use and this pH is increased to more than 4 upon use.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the use takes place under water.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Free-radically polymerizable monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups and at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond,

obtainable by reacting compounds I of claim 6 having a 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl group which is substituted by at least one further organic radical containing a hydroxyl group or carboxyl group with compounds II which contain at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond and at least one group which is reactive toward compounds I, selected from a hydroxyl, carboxyl or epoxy group.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): Monomers according to claim 14, wherein compounds I are substituted by a hydroxyalkyl group and compounds II comprise an ethylenically unsaturated acid.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): Monomers according to claim 14, wherein compounds I are substituted by a carboxyl group and compounds II comprise ethylenically unsaturated epoxides.

Claim 17 (New): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the dispersion or solution is an aqueous dispersion or solution.

Claim 18 (New): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the polymer is a polymer obtained by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

Claim 19 (New): The method of using according to claim 17, wherein the aqueous dispersion or solution has a pH of less than 4 prior to use and this pH is increased to more than 4 upon use.

Claim 20 (New): The method of using according to claim 10, wherein the aqueous dispersion or solution has a pH of less than 4 prior to use and this pH is increased to more than 4 upon use and wherein the dispersion or solution is stored oxygen-free prior to use and comes into contact with oxygen only upon use.